

TOP SECRET

PRIORITY

1

1968 JAN 17 23 59Z

OUT64093

TOP SECRET 172344Z CITE [] 2750

PRIORITY []

OXCART

REF A. [] 2696, DTG 110014Z, JANUARY 1968

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B. OSA MSG CITE [] 6459, DTG 091725Z, JANUARY 1968

25X1

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1. REFERENCE A WAS A PRELIMINARY ANSWER TO REF B. FROM OUR DETAILED STUDY WE ARE UNABLE TO DETERMINE THE EXACT FLIGHT, OR THE MISSILES PROXIMITY TO AIRCRAFT BECAUSE THE REQUIRED STEREO COVERAGE OF THE MISSILES FLIGHT AND ITS EXPLOSION WAS NOT IMAGED.

2. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS IS AS FOLLOWS:

A. 1 MISSILE WAS FIRED FROM SAM SITE 267 PRIOR TO 0405:18Z, FRAME 500.

B. THE MISSILE WAS FIRST SEEN CLIMBING TOWARD THE AIRCRAFT ON FRAME 502 AT 0405:22.

C. THE MISSILE CONTINUED TO CLIMB TOWARD THE AIRCRAFT THROUGH AT LEAST FRAME 516.

D. FRAME 516 (0405:55) REVEALS A SHORT VAPOR TRAIL AND A MISSILE WITH NO FLAME VISIBLE (POSSIBLY MISSILE BURN OUT SINCE FLAME WAS VISIBLE IN ALL PREVIOUS PHOTOGRAPHS).

E. THE MISSILE EXPLODED PRIOR TO 0406:05 WITH THE SMOKE CLOUD IMAGED ON FRAME 520

3. THE FOLLOWING CONCLUSIONS HAVE BEEN REACHED:

(A) THE AIRCRAFT'S CLOSEST POINT OF APPROACH TO SAM SITE 267 WAS 24 NM

(B) THE MISSILE WAS FIRED AT THE MISSION AIRCRAFT AND APPARENTLY CONTINUED ON A COURSE TO INTERCEPT THE AIRCRAFT (ON A CHASE COURSE) UNTIL IT EXPLODED.

(C) FROM 502 THRU 520 THE MISSILE WAS TO THE RIGHT OF THE AIRCRAFT AT ALL TIMES (WITHIN 6 DEGREES 30 MINUTES OF PERPENDICULAR) AND CLIMBING TOWARD THE AIRCRAFT

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END OF MESSAGE

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GROUP 1
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downgrading and
declassification